

COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

305 East 46th Street, New York, New York 10017 (212) 838-5030
(212) 964-6730

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C O B L S A

Newsletter #1

News...News...News...News...News...News...News...News...News...News...News...News

This informal newsletter is to provide all of you participating with us, whether as individuals or as organizations, with news and information about the progress of our work to stop U.S. bank support of South African apartheid. We apologize for the delay and will be staying in touch with you more regularly. Our work is having an effect and that we are responding with the good conscience which we should be - is amply demonstrated in the Washington Post article which accompanies this Newsletter.

--Bank Loans Senate Report - By the time you receive this letter - the Senate Africa Subcommittee report on bank loans to South Africa, available at no cost, should be ready. Written by Bill Raiford, it is very useful and we should flood the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with requests so that they run off more than the projected 1,000 copies. The report is part of a longer piece called "U.S. Corporate Interests in South Africa". It is available from:

Subcommittee on African Affairs
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Room 4229
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

--Export-Import Bank Hearings - The Export Import Bank Hearings will begin early 1978. We can and should put more pressure on the Exim to discontinue the insuring and guaranteeing of commercial bank loans to South Africa. One way we can do it is through a letter writing and visitations campaign. The President of Exim is John Moore (Washington, D.C. 20571). Letters can go to him or to Congressman P. Maquire (Dem.-N.J.) who recently introduced a bill to prohibit Exim from any longer guaranteeing loans to South Africa. A recent letter from Exim gave the following information:

"As of August 31, 1977, Eximbank exposure in South Africa was --

Financial Guarantees.....	\$105.5 million
Regular Bank Guarantees...	59.5 million
Medium Term Insurance.....	25.2 million
Short Term Insurance.....	24.9 million

Total Expense.....\$215.1 million

"There is no exposure under the loans program because Eximbank does not extend loans for U.S. exports to South Africa."

--The Congressional Black Caucus has presented to the Carter Administration the following recommendations:

Support elimination of Export Import Bank guarantees for loans to U.S. companies trading and investing in South Africa. This is especially critical to stop the advanced technology goods flow into the country.

--In the week of November 7th. a group of black Americans formed the Emergency Coalition for Human Rights in South Africa. Made up of, among others, Judge Booth of the New York Criminal Court and President of the American Committee on Africa, David Dinkins, President of the Council of Black Elected Democrats in New York, Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, Clarence Coleman of the National Urban League. State Senator Carl McCall, Frank Savage, a banker and President of the Black Council on Africa, Percy Sutton, Borough President of Manhattan, Denton Watson, journalist, Moran Weston, Pastor of St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Margaret B. Wilson, Chairwoman of the Board of NAACP and Franklin Williams, President of the Phelps Stokes Fund, the group in a meeting with Secretary of State Vance, called on the U.S. government to:

"eliminate authority for the extension of Export Import Bank guarantees for loans to U.S. companies trading and investing in South Africa."

WITHDRAWALS

NEW YORK

1. The convention of the United Radio, Electrical and Machine Workers Union (UE) held in mid-September, 1977 in New York withdrew an approximate four million dollar payroll account from the Chase Manhattan Bank.

- The Sisters of Charity (New York City) withdrew all their accounts from Citibank in New York.

- The Fur, Leather and Machinery Workers (FLM Joint Board) has withdrawn all of its accounts from various New York banks loaning money to South Africa. The Joint Board will be shortly announcing this step.

- The United Automobile Workers Executive Board voted recently to support the bank campaign and "to withdraw UAW deposits in American banks that are loaning money to South Africa."

- Other organizations either involved in the process of withdrawing or considering withdrawing are:

District Council 1199
Union Theological Seminary
The National Council of Churches (NCC)
The World Council of Churches, New York office
The United Negro Scholarship and Education Fund
The United Church of Christ, Board for World Ministries
The United Methodist Church, Board for World Ministries
The Episcopalian Church
The Church of the Brethren

Additionally, it is reported that the National Conference of Christians and Jews withdrew a six million dollar account from a New York offending bank.

There is no precise figure for the dollar value of the amount withdrawn. Literally hundreds of letters and coupons from individual withdrawees have arrived in the various offices of organizations participating in the bank campaign. Still the

approximated value is a minimum of thirty million dollars.

On November 11, 1977 the National Council of Churches governing board, by a 129-0 vote, adopted the following position:

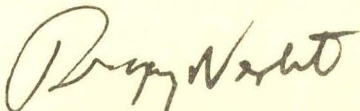
"THAT WE UNDERTAKE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FUNDS AND CLOSURE OF ALL ACCOUNTS IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT INVEST OR MAKE LOANS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESSES AND URGE CONSTITUENT MEMBERSHIP TO ADOPT THIS POLICY."

Presently, thirty eight organizations are participating in the campaign. The list includes such national organizations as the Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice (UCC-CRJ), the International Union, United Automobile Aerospace and Agricultural Implements Workers of America (UAW) and the American Committee on Africa (ACOA). (For the full list contact the COBLSA office.)

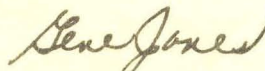
A new brochure - intended for a mailing to 200,000 people - is under preparation. It is going to be ready for mass educational use before the Christmas holiday season. Any contributions towards costs of printing this new piece would be welcomed. Checks should be addressed to:

Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa (COBLSA)
305 E. 46th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
or
COBLSA c/o CALC
198 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10038

This is the moment for us to increase our efforts. The current draconian attacks by the South African government against organized black movements may well be followed by a heightened effort by the South African government to procure new capital.



Praxy Nesbitt (ACOA)
Co-Ordinator



Gene Jones (CALC)
Co-Ordinator